

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of :  
Joachim BUENGER : Group Art Unit.: 1617  
Serial No.: 10/509,368 : Examiner: HUYNH, Carlie K.  
Filed: September 28, 2007 :  
Title: USE OF COMPATIBLE SOLUTES FOR INHIBITING THE RELEASE OF  
CERAMIDES

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on February 14, 2008, applicants elect with traverse Group I, claims 1-17, and 20, drawn to a method for inhibiting the release of ceramides, the prophylaxis and protection of human skin against premature aging, or the prophylaxis and protection of human skin against wrinkling comprising administering a compatible solute of formula Ia or Ib. As species of a compound of formula Ia or Ib, applicants elect (S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid (ectoin), and as species of an indication applicants elect prophylaxis and protection of human skin against wrinkling.

The traversal is on the basis that the PTO has not established that it would pose an undue burden to examine the full scope of the application.